



# TWRA NEWS

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DATE: December 20, 2006

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**TWRC ACTS ON ELK HUNTING IN TENNESSEE**

At the December 13-14, 2006 Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission Meeting in Nashville, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) presented its proposal for hunting elk in Tennessee.

Elk were first reintroduced into Tennessee in December of 2000. After two additional releases, a total of 167 elk have been introduced in East Tennessee's TWRA wildlife management areas at Royal Blue and Sundquist.

The elk population, established in counties on the Upper Cumberland Plateau, has been monitored by TWRA since the release. Preliminary surveys and computer modeling data indicates the Tennessee elk population to be around 160 animals.

At the May, 2006 Commission meeting, The TWRC had requested that TWRA bring a proposal back to the Commission with a goal of establishing an elk hunt in 2007. TWRA staff has been reviewing the introduction of elk in other eastern states, reviewing current Tennessee laws, and holding meetings to get public input into a potential Tennessee elk hunt. In addition, Agency personnel have been surveying the elk population to get a real estimate of herd numbers.

At the Commission meeting, the TWRA staff proposed establishing an elk hunt process that would include: (1) Establishing a non-refundable application fee, (2) Establishing the ability for an elk permit to be issued to a non-profit group to raise funds to support the elk program in Tennessee, (3) Establish an elk hunting license.

“The Commission directed the TWRA to proceed with the necessary data collection, legislation, and rules to establish an elk hunt in Tennessee, said TWRA Region IV Manager, Bob Nichols. “The Commission advised our staff to continue the process for an elk hunt no later than 2008.”

In addition to presenting the hunt proposal, the TWRA announced that approval had been received from the Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture, Ken Givens, to allow for the importation of additional elk into the state. Tennessee has been in contact with the original source of reintroduced Tennessee elk, Elk Island National Park, in Alberta, Canada. Officials there now say they may have up to 200 surplus elk in their herd available to be transported and introduced into the Tennessee elk population.

TWRA is currently working to obtain the necessary funding and permits to go to Canada and bring those elk back to the state for a mid-winter release. Biologists and wildlife managers predict the additional elk will help insure a more healthy and productive elk population in Tennessee.

### **TIME TO APPLY FOR SPRING QUOTA TURKEY HUNTS**

Hunters have from December 20, 2006 until February 14, 2007, to apply for the 2007 spring quota turkey hunts, reminds the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA). **Remember, there will be no mail-in quota hunt applications; you must apply online or at a license agent.** A list of available spring turkey quota hunts is available at license agents and online at <http://www.tnwildlife.org/> **MACROBUTTON HtmlResAnchor** [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org) .

Hunters may walk in to any license agent (including TWRA Regional Offices) and apply. You will need your TWRA ID number and required fees, if any. Annual Sportsman and Lifetime Sportsman license holders and seniors with a type 167 permit are not required pay a permit fee.

Using the 2007 Spring Turkey Quota Hunt instruction sheet, select the hunt choices for the areas you wish to apply. After applying, the license agent will give the applicant a receipt listing name, address, hunt choices and fees. Be sure to verify all information (including address) on the application receipt to ensure you will receive quota hunt information after the drawing.

Hunters with Internet access may go to <http://www.tnwildlife.org/> **MACROBUTTON HtmlResAnchor** [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org) and apply (beginning Dec. 20) for a spring quota turkey hunt. Click on On-Line Hunting/Fishing Licenses & Boat Renewals. Once you have accessed the Internet site, follow the on-screen directions. All applicants (except sportsman license holders and seniors with a Type 167 permit) pay a \$20 permit fee and a \$2 access fee for applying on-line. The \$2 usage fee is collected by the company that maintains the Internet site.

You may apply alone. Once you apply alone, you may not create or join a party.

If you wish to create a party, you must indicate this when you first apply. The party leader decides the hunt choices. You may allow other applicants to join your party by giving them your party number.

You may join a party created by another applicant. To do this you must have the party number when applying. A party may not exceed 5 members.

